

A Compendium of Canonical Characters



The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes

Canonical Characters



Howard Elcock,
March, 1923

The Adventure of the Creeping Man



“The Adventure of the Creeping Man” 01

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

- 01 - Cover Card
- 02 - Cover Card
- 03 - Summary
- 04 - Filmography / Radiography
- 05 - Sherlock Holmes
- 06 - John Watson
- 07 - Mr. Trevor Bennett
- 08 - Professor Presbury
- 09 - Edith Presbury

Canonical Characters



Frederic Dorr Steele,
March, 1923

The Adventure of the Creeping Man



"The Adventure of the Creeping Man" 02

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

10 - Alice Morphy

11 - Roy

12 - H. Lowenstein

13 - Mercer

14 - A. Dorak

15 - MacPhail

16 -- Langur

17 - Data! Data! Data!

Canonical Characters

THE ADVENTURE OF THE CREEPING MAN

A NEW
SHERLOCK HOLMES
STORY

BY
A. Conan Doyle

ILLUSTRATED BY
HOWARD ELCOCK

MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES was always of opinion that I should publish the singular facts connected with Professor Presbury, if only to dope out for all the ugly rumours which some twenty years ago agitated the University and were echoed in the learned societies of London. There were, however, certain obstacles in the way, and the true history of this curious case remained entangled in the file box which contains so many records of my friend's adventures. Now we have at last obtained permission to ventilate the facts which formed one of the very last cases handled by Holmes before his retirement from practice. Even now a certain reticence and discretion have to be observed in laying the matter before the public.

It was one Sunday evening early in the month of the year 1901 that I received Holmes's iconic message: "Come to my apartment—if inconvenient come to my house.—S. H." The relations between these latter days were peculiar. My habits, narrow and cautious, and I had become one of the most prominent figures in the London scene, the old black pipe, and the others perhaps less

excusable. When it was a case of active work and a roomie was needed upon whose nerve he could place some reliance, my life was obvious. But apart from this I had none. I was a recluse for his mind. I stimulated him. He liked to think aloud in my presence. His remarks could hardly be said to be made to me—many of them would have been as appropriately addressed to his bedstead—but now the loss, having found the habit, it had become in some way helpful that I should register and interpret. He irritated him by a certain methodical slowness in my recital, and irritation served only to make his own flame-like intuitions and impressions flash up the more vividly and swiftly. Such was my health-rob in our alliance.

When I arrived at Baker Street I found him huddled up in his armchair with drawn knees, his pipe in his mouth and brow furrowed with thought. It was clear that he was in the throes of some real problem. With a wave of his hand he indicated my old arm-chair, but for half an hour he gave no sign that he was aware of my presence. I sat down, and he seemed to come back to me, and, with his usual white-gloved hand, greeted me back to what I had done.

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The Adventure of the Creeping Man



"The Adventure of the Creeping Man" 03

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

Trevor Bennett has requested Holmes investigate the strange behavior of Professor Presbury.

Can Holmes determine what has caused a physiological change in the Professor, the nature of his trip to Prague, and what has led to violent acts that could threaten his daughter or others?

Canonical Characters



Ralph Criswell,
March, 1925

The Adventure of the Creeping Man



“The Adventure of the Creeping Man” 04

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

Filmography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
March, 1991	UK	Jeremy Brett	Edward Hardwicke
1992	CZ	Viktor Preiss	Josef Somr

Radiography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Network</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
February 02, 1931	NBC	Richard Gordon	Leigh Lovell
March 21, 1936	Blue (NBC)	Louis Hector	Harry West
November 27, 1939	Blue (NBC)	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
July 09, 1943	Mutual	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
March 17, 1947	ABC	Tom Conway	Nigel Bruce
March 01, 1995	BBC	Clive Merrison	Michael Williams
September 26, 2010	Jim French	John Patrick Lowrie	Lawrence Albert

Canonical Characters



Sherlock Holmes



“The Adventure of the Creeping Man” 05

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

“Come at once if convenient—if inconvenient come all the same. S.H.”

“A dog reflects the family life. Whoever saw a frisky dog in a gloomy family, or a sad dog in a happy one?”

“Is it not strange that a staid, elderly philosopher ... should now have been twice attacked by his own dog?”

“Always look at the hands first, Watson. Then cuffs, trouser knees, and boots.”

(Viktor Priess, 1992, Šplhající Profesor)

Canonical Characters



John Watson



"The Adventure of the Creeping Man" 06

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

"It was one Sunday evening early in September of the year 1903."

"The true history of this curious case remained entombed in the tin box which contains so many records of my friend's adventures. Now we have permission to ventilate the facts which formed one of the very last cases handled by Holmes before his retirement from practice."

"But the dog, the face at the window, the creeping man in the passage?"

(Josef Somr, 1992, Šplhající Profesor)

Canonical Characters



Mr. Trevor Bennett



“The Adventure of the Creeping Man” 07

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

AKA “Jack.” Prof. Presbury’s professional assistant who had a medical degree. Engaged to his daughter. “A tall, handsome youth about thirty.”

“I could see that something was coming along the passage, something dark and crouching. Then suddenly it emerged into the light, and I saw that it was he. He was crawling, Mr. Holmes—crawling!”

(Adrian Lukis, 1991, The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes, “The Creeping Man”)

Canonical Characters



Professor Presbury



“The Adventure of the Creeping Man” 08

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

Age 61. Famous Camford physiologist. Engaged to 21 year-old Alice Morphy. Took elixir of langur in effort to be younger.

“These two gentlemen have come from London under the impression that they have been summoned. You handle all my correspondence. Have you a note of anything going to a person named Holmes?”

(Petr Kostka, 1992, Šplhající Profesor)

Canonical Characters



Edith Presbury



“The Adventure of the Creeping Man” 09

(*The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*)

Professor's daughter, engaged to Mr. Bennett.

“I was awakened in the night by the dog barking most furiously. I was amazed to see my father's face looking in at me. Mr. Holmes, I nearly died of surprise and horror. There it was pressed against the windowpane, and one hand seemed to be raised as if to push up the window.”

(Kateřina Brožová, 1992, *Šplhající Profesor*)

Canonical Characters



Alice Morphy



“The Adventure of the Creeping Man” 10

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

Daughter of Prof. Morphy, who was chair of comparative anatomy. Engaged to Prof. Presbury.

“The girl seemed to like the Professor in spite of his eccentricities. It was only age which stood in the way.”

“A very perfect girl both in mind and body.”

—
(Anna Mazotti, 1991, The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes, “The Creeping Man”)

Canonical Characters



Roy



"The Adventure of the Creeping Man" 11

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

Prof. Presbury's affectionate wolfhound. Attacked Presbury three times and was banished to the stables.

"We heard the rattle of falling metal, and the next instant dog and man were rolling on the ground together, the one roaring in rage, the other screaming in a strange shrill falsetto of terror."

Canonical Characters



H. Lowenstein



“The Adventure of the Creeping Man” 12

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

Scientist in Prague striving to find the secret of rejuvenescence and the elixir of life.

“It is possible, that the serum of anthropoid would have been better. I have used black-faced langur because a specimen was accessible. Langur is, of course, a crawler and climber, while anthropoid walks erect and is in all ways nearer. I beg you to take every possible precaution that there be no premature revelation of the process.”

Canonical Characters



Mercer



“The Adventure of the Creeping Man” 13

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

General utility man for Holmes who looks up routine business.

“Have visited the Commercial Road and seen Dorak. Suave person, Bohemian, elderly. Keeps large general store.”

Canonical Characters



A. Dorak



“The Adventure of the Creeping Man” 14

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

Bohemian drug supplier in London who supplied langur elixir made by H. Lowenstein for Prof. Presbury.

“Dorak - a curious name. Slavonic, I imagine. Well, it is an important link in the chain.”

Canonical Characters



Macphail



“The Adventure of the Creeping Man” 15

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

Professor Presbury’s
coachman. Sleeps over the
stables.

*“I’m not surprised, I’ve seen
him at it before. I knew the
dog would get him sooner or
later.”*

“Macphail will guard the
patient and let us know if there
is any change.”

(James Tomlinson, 1991, *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*,
“The Creeping Man”)

Canonical Characters



Langur



“The Adventure of the Creeping Man” 16

(The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes)

Bennett had taken a manual of zoology from the shelves.

“Langur, the great black-faced monkey of the Himalayan slopes, biggest and most human of climbing monkeys.”

“It is possible that the serum of Anthropoid would have been better. I have, as I explained to you, used black-faced Langur because a specimen was accessible. Langur is, of course, a crawler and climber, while Anthropoid walks erect, and is in all ways nearer.”

Canonical Characters



G. Dutric,
August, 1930

The Adventure of the Creeping Man



“The Adventure of the Creeping Man” 17

(*The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*)

First
Publication:

U.K. -- *The Strand Magazine*,
March, 1923

U.S. - *Hearst International*
March, 1923

U.K. - *The Casebook of Sherlock
Holmes*,

October, 1917, John Murray

U.S. - *The Casebook of Sherlock
Holmes*,

October, 1917, George H. Doran

Chronological
Date:

n/a

(Watson)

September 06, 1903

(Baring-Gould)

Ranking:

40 of 56 short stories
(Sherlockian poll, 1999, Stock)

Christ
Abbreviation:

CREE

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